SONS OF NORWAY

FJELL-LJOM.. (MOUNTAIN ECHOES).. BLÅFJELL LODGE 3-646
April 2016

President: Sharon Rohrback 540-774-0006
Vice President: Joann Barfield 540-380-2926
Secretary: Kathy Clark 540-977-2349
Treasurer: Robert Rohrback 540-774-0006
Editor: Robin Lambert 540-904-1817

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Blåfjell's website: sonsofnorwayblafjell.org
Facebook group: http://www.facebook.com/SonsOfNorwayBlaFjell

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Mission Statement:
The mission of the Sons of Norway is to preserve and cherish a lasting appreciation of the heritage and culture of Norway and the other Nordic countries.

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Regularly scheduled meetings:
Fourth Saturday of each month, **1:00 PM**,
College Lutheran Church, 210 South College Avenue, Salem
(Except for special events)

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IN LIEU OF OUR APRIL MEETING:
April 12, 7:00pm
Social Outing: Nordic Fiddle Concert
Concert Presented by Martha Levenson, Director of the Seattle Lilla Spelmanslag
Place: at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Lynchburg
Cost: The suggested donation - $10/adult and $5/child; there will be a basket at the door.

April 23, 10:30am – 12:30pm
Book signing with Timothy Boyce Editor of
From Day to Day: One Man's Diary of Survival in Nazi Concentration Camps
(Odd Nansen's private diary translated into English)
Location: Salem Museum 801 East Main Street, Salem, VA. (phone number 389-6760)

April 29, 10am-1pm
Home School Event Day
Location: D Day Memorial in Bedford
Program: Presenting Norway's role in the war during WWII – The 99th Infantry Battalion
During this special event, homeschool families and co-ops get to experience the National D-Day Memorial's field trip program. Students will be given the opportunity to meet a D-Day veteran and interact with a WWII living historian. There will be lessons on various aspects of WWII, such as the role of propaganda and defense tactics employed by Allied troops on D-Day. A complimentary guided tour is included during your visit. **Registration and pre-payment** is required by April 15th.
Admission is $4.00 per person and children 5 and under are free.
Contact the Memorial's Education Department at (540) 586-3329 ext. 111 or education@dday.org to reserve your spot today.

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BLÅFJELL PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

We had a very nice meeting in March. Thank you to Cheri Johnson and Helene DeVries for the program and refreshments.

APRIL IS VERY BUSY WITH SPECIAL EVENTS in lieu of our regular meeting. See detail in the following event-specific articles.

April 12, 7:00 pm: Social trip to Nordic Fiddle concert at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Lynchburg, VA. Provide your own transportation.

April 23, 10:30am – 12:30pm: Editor, Timothy Boyce's book signing of Odd Nansen's diary: ***From Day to Day: One Man's Diary of Survival in Nazi Concentration Camps*** translated from Norwegian into English language. Copies of his book will be available for sale.

April 29, 10am-1pm: Blåfjell Lodge participation in the D-Day Memorial Home School Event Day. Call Robin Lambert to volunteer help. Erik Brun of the 99th Infantry Battalion (Separate) plans to be there.

MAY FUTURE EVENT: LOCAL COLORS in lieu of regular meeting. Our participation registration papers have been submitted. Plan now to volunteer your time. Think of baked goods you can make. Details will be in May newsletter.

Thank you for your participation in all we do.

Submitted by Sharon Rohrback, Blåfjell Lodge President

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VICE-PRESIDENT/MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE:

Spring has sprung! (almost!) With the first stirrings of Spring Fever, let us each resolve to participate in the great Sons of Norway events that we have coming up: the April 12 Nordic Fiddle Concert in Lynchburg, the April 23 Timothy Boyce book signing at the Salem Museum, and the April 29 D-Day Memorial Home School Event Day in Bedford .. all good occasions to invite family and friends to accompany you ..

In the meantime, be busy collecting donations for our **MAY YARD SALE! And mark your calendars for the MAY 21 LOCAL COLORS!**

I look forward to seeing you!

Submitted by Joann Barfield, Blåfjell Lodge Vice President/Membership Chairman

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MINUTES OF MARCH MEETING:

The March 19 meeting of Blåfjell Lodge 3-646, held at College Lutheran Church in Salem, looked both backward to St. Patrick's Day and forward to Easter, both in refreshments and in programming. Cheri and Helene provided an attractive spread of food, some St. Patty's green and some in the springtime Easter theme. Two guests enjoyed the food, the meeting, and the program with us.

President Sharon opened the meeting with the singing of the three national anthems, followed by approval of the February minutes and Treasurer Bob's report; no credits or debits appeared in the past month, so the checking account balance remains at $3,594.49.

There was discussion of the lodge's delegates to the D-3 convention on June 8-12 in Myrtle Beach, NC, and approval of the attendance of two delegates, Sharon and Bob Rohrback. They request items for their auction and cookies for the coffee breaks; can we provide?

Because of inclement weather and poor yard sale attendance reported by Cultural Chairman Cheri, the April 9 yard sale fundraiser will be postponed to May 7 or May 14 (rain date). **All Blåfjell members are encouraged to scour their homes during the month of April for donations to the yard sale and deliver them to either Cheri or Sharon on Friday, May 6 (or call either Cheri or Sharon for pick-up.) It is critical that we have a large number of sale items in order to have a successful sale!**

There will be no general meeting in April, as there are special events. (1) April 12 Nordic Fiddle concert in Lynchburg, for which Blåfjell Lodge has donated $100 toward transportation for the presenter and will assist with publicity; hopefully, Blåfjell will have several attendees. (2) April 23 Book signing by Timothy Boyce, time and location to be announced. (3) April 29 D-Day Home School Day, 10 am – 1 pm; Robin and Helene, Co-Chairs, need several volunteers to assist. There will be no general meeting in May because of our participation in Local Colors.

Cultural Director Cheri Johnson presented a most interesting program on the Nordic connection with St. Patrick's Day and Easter celebration in Norway. Cheri also shared with us her beautiful collection of painted Ukrainian Easter eggs!

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned with the display of several members' Easter bonnets!

Submitted by Joann Barfield, Secretary Pro-Tem

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MEMBER NEWS:

Gratuleer Med Dagen

***April birthdays**:*

Robin Lambert 4/1
Ellen Nygaard 4/15
John Eide 4/25

Prayer Requests:

From Anne Hoose:
Pam is doing okay after her surgery. My brother, not so good, as he gets worse. Alzheimer's never seems to get better, only worse. We are having a hard time with him.

Pray for a successful hip replacement surgery on April 13th and healing for Kathy Clark.

Condolences:

For Vernon Ferguson and his family. On 3/31/16 Vernon's father, Francis Vernon Ferguson, passed away after a long battle with cancer.

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The Seattle Lilla Spelmanslag Fiddle Concert at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Lynchburg

Martha Levenson, Director
Martha is passionate about Scandinavian fiddling and about working with children. She believes that playing music should be both fun and accessible. When not working with the Seattle Lilla Spelmanslag, Martha can be found performing with a number of Seattle area groups, working in her garden, or hanging out with her dog.

Emma Anderson, Assistant Director
Emma began playing Scandinavian folk music in 2007 after joining a student spelmanslag while studying abroad in Stockholm. She loves working with the Seattle Lilla Spelmanslag because it involves two of her very favorite things: playing music and working with kids. Her other favorite things include baking, reading and printmaking.

We play folk music from Norway, Sweden, Denmark and Finland. While much of what we play is dance music, we also play a selection of listening tunes. Our repertoire consists of gammaldans tunes, tunes that are played for dances like schottis, waltz, polka and hambo, and tunes for bygdedans or village dances. Village dances are classified by region, with each region having its own styling for these unique tunes, often known as pols or polska. These tunes typically have three beats to the measure, with emphasis on beats one and three, creating a rhythm that, when tapped, sounds like a heartbeat. To hear a sample, click below.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3Hd05KiBTj8

The Lilla Spelmanslag members learn their tunes in the traditional way, by ear, without written music. We play it very slowly, break it into small pieces, and then eventually put the pieces back together, and bring the tempo up as the musicians feel more secure with the notes. For those students who have not played as long, we make harmony parts that are simpler, yet very valuable as they often support the demarcation of the dance rhythm. Musicians are also given a CD with tunes recorded so that they may listen and practice at home.

In addition, members of the group learn about rhythm and styling of tunes by dancing. While we rarely have formal dance instruction, we often walk in rhythm or move in rhythm as a part of rehearsal. This helps the musicians to feel the music in their bodies and understand how the music must move to appropriate for dancing.

Martha & Emma's Nordic band, Skolkis: http://www.skolkis.com/
Seattle Lilla Spelmanslag: http://www.seattlelillalag.org/

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FROM TIMOTHY BOYCE: ABOUT HIM AND HIS INVOLVEMENT IN translating and editing Odd Nansen's book ***Day to Day: One Man's Diary of Survival in Nazi Concentration Camps.***

Timothy Boyce practiced law for many years, most recently serving as the Managing Partner of the Charlotte, NC office of Dechert LLP, a global law firm with offices in 13 countries. Specializing in commercial real estate finance, Tim held leadership positions within the ABA's Real Property Section and was elected a Fellow of the American College of Real Estate Attorneys as well as the American College of Mortgage Attorneys. He retired in 2014 to devote full time to writing.

Tim holds an MBA from The Wharton School of Finance, and a JD from the University of Pennsylvania Law School. He received a BS in Foreign Service from Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service.

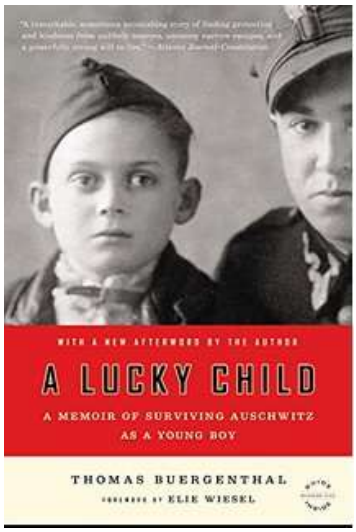
Tim has always enjoyed writing, having published his first book while still in law school; for many years he published in a variety of legal journals. His brief introduction to the story of Nansen's secret diary appeared in the March 2013 issue of Viking magazine.

A resident of Tryon, North Carolina, Tim lives with his wife Tara, two horses, two barn cats, and a dog. His two sons, Owen and Patrick, both served as officers in the U.S. Marine Corps.

Why this book, why now, and why me? By Tim Boyce

The scene: A German concentration camp
The date: Early 1945
The action: A prisoner saves the life of a young Jewish boy in the camp; boy later comes to America and becomes a world-renowned authority on international human rights.
Sound like a movie script? The plot of a novel?

It's a true story.



The boy is Thomas Buergenthal. His many accomplishments include serving as a Justice on the International Court of Justice at The Hague from 2000 to 2010.

Tom's incredible life is recounted in his memoir, A Lucky Child, published in 2009, including his almost six-year incarceration (beginning at age 5) in various Jewish ghettos, work camps and concentration camps, including Auschwitz. From there Tom was evacuated in late January 1945 to Sachsenhausen—an event now known as the Auschwitz Death March. He arrived with badly frostbitten feet, requiring the amputation of several toes. While he was recovering in the infirmary Odd Nansen, a Norwegian prisoner on a visit to a sick friend, stopped and struck up a conversation. In an act of singular generosity, Nansen thereafter used his food rations to bribe the infirmary orderlies to look out for young Tommy, and most importantly, keep his name off the periodic "selection lists" of those destined for the gas chambers.

Buergenthal's memoir (which I purchased in 2010 for the simple reason that it looked intriguing) mentioned, in a footnote, that Nansen had kept a secret diary while a prisoner, and that an English translation of the diary had been published in 1949 under the title ***From Day to Day***.

On nothing more than a whim, and curious to know more about the subject, I located a copy of Nansen's book on the Internet (rather surprised at how few copies I could even find).

When ***From Day to Day*** finally arrived, I was busy with other books, so I decided to read no more than one diary entry per day—much as the author wrote it. Within two weeks I had upped that to two entries per day; not much later, it became three diary entries per day.

And by then I was hooked.

Eventually I was devoting every waking minute to the book—it was as powerful and as compelling as anything I had ever read.

At the same time, the feeling grew in me—how could such a magnificent book be so scarce, and out of print for over 60 years? More importantly, what a travesty that such a book could be so totally forgotten, with almost no one aware of its existence?

What to do?

The answer actually came quite easily—I would get the book back into print. Naively, foolishly perhaps, and without a clue as to how to make this all happen, I embarked on a five-year odyssey that will result in the re-publication of a deluxe, fully-annotated edition of Nansen's diary in early 2016 from Vanderbilt University Press. Thomas Buergenthal, now 81, has written a Preface for the new edition, which will also contain sketches by Nansen and diary entries never before available in English.

More details, updates, information I have learned along the way, and even some random thoughts, will be posted on my blog "Odds and Ends." Please join me on this inspiring journey.

"Work Makes You Free" - Entrance Gate to Sachsenhausen Camp

January 13, 1945
Seventy-four years ago Odd Nansen, on holiday with his wife and three children in the mountains outside Lillehammer, was visited by three Nazis. He was not arrested, merely asked to come to Oslo to answer some questions. Nansen was in fact never charged with any crime, but was held as a hostage for the next 40 months, until the closing days of the war. The diary he secretly, and at significant risk, kept throughout those 40 months later became "From Day to Day."

At the same time, hundreds of miles away, a seven year-old boy, Thomas Buergenthal, was sharing a one-room apartment with his parents in the Jewish ghetto of Kielce, Poland, hoping to survive the war. Nansen's and Buergenthal's paths would not cross until three years later, in Sachsenhausen, Germany, but from it grew a life-long friendship, and the inspiration for Buergenthal to pursue a career dedicated to international human rights.

February 16, 1945: Nansen Meets Buergenthal

Odd Nansen, visiting a sick Norwegian friend in *Revier* [infirmary] III, Sachsenhausen, happened upon a young Jewish boy recovering from an operation. Nansen's description of the meeting was terse, only one paragraph long:

"He comes from Auschwitz. His legs were frostbitten and several toes have been amputated. At Auschwitz he was an errand boy in the crematorium. He relates among other things that the most they could take in the gas-chamber at a time

was two thousand, and then they used two boxes [of Zyklon B], he said. "But how do you know that?" someone asked him. "Why, because I got the boxes," said the child."

Nansen's interaction with young Tommy takes up only six diary entries, spanning less than one month of Nansen's nearly forty-month incarceration. Yet it becomes clear from these entries that Buergenthal touched Nansen in a way that almost nothing and no one else could, and forms a pivotal relationship for him. In his final diary entry dealing with Tommy, Nansen wrote:

"Poor, lovable, splendid little Tommy! It was such a wrench to say goodbye—worse than anything in all your "old uncle's" prison life. For the very first time he saw you, you went straight to his heart. But that was something you didn't realize, and I'm glad."

Nansen was even more explicit in a work he later wrote about Buergenthal. In *Tommy: En sannferdig fortelling fortalt* [*Tommy: A True Story Told*] published in Norway in 1970, Nansen confessed:

"[Tommy] touched something in us which was about to disappear. He called to life again human feelings, which were painful to have, but which nevertheless meant salvation for us all."

Thus it is not surprising that Nansen dedicated *From Day to Day* in part to "young Tommy" without knowing whether Buergenthal had even survived the war. (Nansen was evacuated to Neuengamme concentration camp on March 20, 1945 by the Swedish Red Cross as part of the "white buses" operation, and from there to Denmark, Sweden, and ultimately freedom; Buergenthal was liberated from Sachsenhausen on April 22, 1945 by Polish troops, eventually made it to an orphanage in Otwock, Poland before being reunited with his mother in Germany in December 1946.)

"Nor is it surprising that for Tom Buergenthal, "more than anyone else [Odd Nansen] was responsible for my choosing to embark on this career path [of human rights work]," a path which ultimately led to Tom's appointment as a justice to the International Court of Justice at The Hague (2000-2010), and receipt of many awards and accolades, including the 2015 Elie Wiesel Award from the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum."

Nansen and Buergenthal remained life-long friends, visiting each other in the U.S. and Norway as their busy schedules allowed.

And it all began in 1945.

Todeszone: the death zone perimeter of Sachsenhausen Camp.

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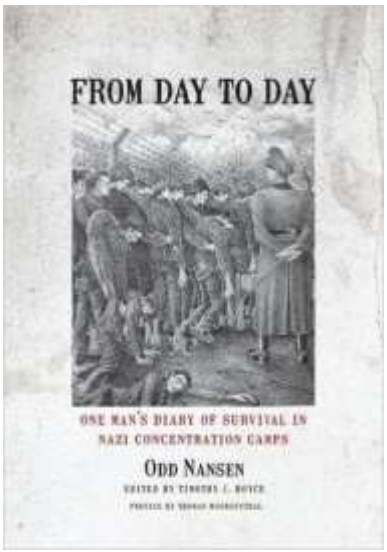
BOOK CORNER: AMAZON'S review of *From Day to Day: One Man's Diary of Survival in Nazi Concentration Camps* by Odd Nansen (Author), Timothy J. Boyce (Editor)



In 1942 Norwegian Odd Nansen was arrested by the Nazis, and he spent the remainder of World War II in concentration camps--Grini in Oslo, Veidal above the Arctic Circle, and Sachsenhausen in Germany. For three and a half years, Nansen kept a secret diary on tissue-paper-thin pages later smuggled out by various means, including inside the prisoners' hollowed-out breadboards.

Unlike writers of retrospective Holocaust memoirs, Nansen recorded the mundane and horrific details of camp life as they happened, "from day to day." With an unsparing eye, Nansen described the casual brutality and random terror that was the fate of a camp prisoner. His entries reveal his constantly frustrated hopes for an early end to the war, his longing for his wife and children, his horror at the especially barbaric treatment reserved for Jews, and his disgust at the anti-Semitism of some of his fellow Norwegians. Nansen often confronted his German jailors with unusual outspokenness and sometimes with a sense of humor and absurdity that was not appreciated by his captors.

After the Putnam's edition received rave reviews in 1949, the book fell into obscurity. In 1956, in response to a poll about the "most undeservedly neglected" book of the preceding quarter-century, Carl Sandburg singled out *From Day to Day*, calling it "an epic narrative," which took "its place among the great affirmations of the power of the human spirit to rise above terror, torture, and death." Indeed, Nansen witnessed all the horrors of the camps, yet still saw hope for the future. He sought reconciliation with the German people, even donating the proceeds of the German edition of his book to German refugee relief work. Nansen was following in the footsteps of his father, Fridtjof, an Arctic explorer and humanitarian who was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1922 for his work on behalf of World War I refugees. (Fridtjof also created the "Nansen passport" for stateless persons.)

This new edition, the first in over sixty-five years, contains extensive annotations and new diary selections never before translated into English. Forty sketches of camp life and death by Nansen, an architect and talented draftsman, provide a sense of immediacy and acute observation matched by the diary entries. The preface is written by Thomas Buergenthal, who was "Tommy," the ten-year-old survivor of the Auschwitz Death March, whom Nansen met at Sachsenhausen and saved using his extra food rations. Buergenthal, who later served as a judge on the International Court of Justice at The Hague, is a recipient of the 2015 Elie Wiesel Award from the US Holocaust Memorial Museum.

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NORDIC HUMOR:

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LANGUAGE LESSON:

When leaving people	Pronunciation	English
Adjø (formal)	a-djuh	Goodbye
Ha det (informal)	hah deh	Bye
God natt (usually used only when going to bed)	goo natt	Good night
Vi sees	vee se-es	See you (later)
Small Talk	**Pronunciation**	**English**
Takk for sist!	takk for sist	Thank you for last time [we were together]
Hyggelig å møte deg!	hee-geh-lee oh muh-teh dai	Nice to see you!
Takk for hjelpen!	takk for yell-pen	Thank you for your help!
Bare hyggelig	bah-reh hee-geh-lee	Don't mention it!
More numbers	**Pronunciation**	**English**
elleve	ehll-veh	eleven
tolv	tohll	twelve
tretten	treht-tehn	thirteen
fjorten	fjoor-tehn	fourteen
femten	fehm-tehn	fifteen
seksten	sais-tehn	sixteen
sytten	suht-tehn	seventeen
atten	aht-tehn	eighteen
nitten	neet-ten	nineteen
tjue	kjew-eh	twenty

Excerpts from Sons of Norway member Kari Diesen-Dahl Norwegian lessons.

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YARD SALE ITEMS NEEDED!

Dear Sons of Norway friends, we only have a few opportunities to make money in our small organization. We have yard sales and bake sales. That generates "pure profit" without any expenditure. We need your help in donating items for our annual yard sale. This year it will be Saturday, May 7, from 8 - 2pm. In order to make money, you have to have a quantity of items to buy. People will just drive by if they don't see enough objects to buy. So I am asking the board members to donate 50 items each. You can price these items yourself with stickers. Other members should try to come up with 10-15 pieces. If you need someone to come and pick up these items, let me know. Cheri Johnson 540-989-6330 Items that sell well are: sporting equipment, hunting, fishing, tools, kitchen items, linens, appliances, games, toys, dolls , puzzles, books, dvd's, cd's, vhs tapes, lamps, blankets, shoes, and clothes. So you can see we can use any of these items and they are in your houses. We all have too much stuff and our junk could be someone else's treasures.

Please take some time to search your house for items that we could use for our sale. The sale will be advertised in the Roanoke Times and Craig's lists at 2239 POMMEL DRIVE, ROANOKE, VA.

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NORDIC RECIPE: Norwegian Pancakes (pannekaker)

Ingredients
4 eggs
¾ cup sugar
¼ cup melted butter
1 cup milk
1 cup flour
¼ tsp. salt
1 tsp. vanilla extract

Beat together eggs, sugar and melted butter until smooth. Mix in milk and flour, salt and vanilla and beat well again until smooth and fluffy. Grease a skillet or saucepan and set at low to medium heat. Take approximately ½ cup portions of batter and pour into hot skillet. Spread batter evenly around skillet. Pancakes are supposed to be thin. Once bottom turns light brown, flip pancake over. Fry a little longer, then remove from skillet. Sprinkle with sugar or jam, roll up and enjoy!

Submitted by Cheri Johnson, Blåfjell Lodge Cultural Director
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WHAT DID YOU MISS?

March 19, 1-3 pm Blåfjell Lodge Meeting
Program: The Hardanger Fiddle by Cheri Johnson

* This traditional stringed instrument was used originally to play the music of Norway.
* It is very similar to the violin.
* It has 8 - 9 strings. Usually there are only 4.
* the 4 top strings of the 9 are played like a violin. 5 strings resonate under the other 4. These are called understrings.
* This fiddle has thinner wood and is used mainly in SW Norway and called "flatfele."
* Hardingfele is used for dancing with rhythmic foot stomping.
* The fiddler often led the bridal procession to the church.
* The Hardanger fiddle is heavily carved with a dragon lion or a carved woman's head at the top of the pegbox. There is extensive mother of pearl inlay on the tail piece and fingerboard. There is black ink decoration called rosing on the body of the instrument.
* The first one was made in 1651 by Ole Jonsen Jaastad in Hardanger, Norway. By 1850 there was a more modern style.
* Most people who play this fiddle "play by ear," not knowing how to read music.
* There were times in history when the fiddle was played to ward off evil and the devil. Some viewed it as a sinful instrument that encouraged wild dances, drinking, and fights.
* The Hardanger fiddle was used in the soundtracks of Lord of the Rings, Frozen, and How to Train Your Dragon.
* The Hardanger fiddle originated in the area around the Hardanger Fjord.
* Around 1850, 1/3 of the population left Norway for America. The fiddle came to America and died out after the first generation died out and their children did not preserve fiddle playing. They did not follow in their parents footsteps..
* Violin strings are heavier than Hardanger fiddle strings.
* The Hardanger music from this fiddle is now called "gammaldans"...meaning old dance.
* " Solo" Hardanger fiddle playing is most common. There is a certain seriousness and strictness about the music which is like "classical music".

Submitted by Cheri Johnson, Blåfjell Lodge Cultural Director
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News from Marlin Thompson:

Christian Pendant Found In Denmark
http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/europe/amateur-metal-detector-finds-crucifix-which-may-change-historical-record-a6936301.html

Easter in Norway from the Norway Post.
http://www.norwaypost.no/index.php/news/latest-news/31075

Video of God's world.
https://www.youtube.com/embed/mMq1FqiM8Qc

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Fra Presidenten, Mary B. Andersen, April 2016

Don't watch the clock; do what it does. Keep going. Sam Levenson

April is 3D Charitable Trust Month

The Sons of Norway and the Third District have been going strong for over 100 years. Recently, I received a copy of a booklet commemorating the 10th anniversary of the Third District! It is written in Norwegian. (The advertisements are in English and looking at the old telephone numbers brought back a lot of memories.) The booklet will be displayed at the June 2016 Convention and will eventually be copied and placed on our website.

I shared the booklet with the 3D Board at our March board meeting and asked Zone 4 Director Kari Williams to take a look at it and provide her impressions. Kari mentioned that generosity jumped out at her in the lodge descriptions. Many lodges described providing sick pay, funeral benefits and just a little to help people get over a rough spot. The amount of aid provided was amazing considering it was 1923! This helping hand became the basis for our Charitable Trust.

The Spring 1971 Sons of Norway Bulletin reported that a motion made at the 1936 District Convention to start an old age fund became a reality in 1938. Over time, the old age fund became known as the Benevolent Fund. Eventually the Benevolent Fund was formalized in 1971 as the Charitable Trust. For almost 80 years, the Charitable Trust has provided modest financial support to District 3 members to aid physical, social and psychological well-being.

The June 2016 3D Convention marks the 80th anniversary of the formation of the Benevolent Fund! Wow, isn't that amazing! Sadly, reduced donations and market volatility has taken a toll on our Charitable Trust. You will hear more about the Trustees actions at the June Convention.

Like the clock, can we keep the Charitable Trust going for our fraternal brothers and sisters?

Jeg ønsker dere alt godt.

Mary

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Land of the Vikings Culture and Heritage Center – Quilt Raffle

The Land of the Vikings are raffling a beautiful hand sewn quilt donated by members of the Norseman and Nor-Bu Lodges.

The LOV Board had asked permission to pull the raffle ticket at the Third District Convention in Myrtle Beach this coming June.

$1.00 per ticket and $5.00 for 6 tickets.

Thank you for your support of Land of the Vikings.

Sharon Rohrback has 5 books of 6 tickets for available to purchase for the Blåfjell Lodge members.

If you are interested in purchasing a ticket, contact Sharon.

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FOUR THINGS LIFE INSURANCE CAN DO FOR YOUR FAMILY

1) Buys time. Allows loved ones to focus on their grief by helping to pay for the funeral and other expenses.

2) Provides a fresh start. Loved ones can start with a clean slate by helping to pay off credit card bills, outstanding loans, and even the mortgage.

3) Generates income. Helps replace lost income for years to come so that surviving family members can continue to pay for life's necessities.

4) Creates opportunities. Can provide funding to pay for schooling or start a new business.

For information about Sons of Norway's financial benefits contact:

Michael Beck, LUTCF
(p) 757-716-8830
mike@vavalueins.com
www.vavalueins.com

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APRIL IS CHARITABLE TRUST MONTH The Charitable Trust – Taking Care of Our Own April is the month of nature "springing" back and it is also the month of taxes. April has also been designated The Charitable Trust fund raising month. Perhaps your tax preparer has told you to try and increase your charitable contributions to help lower your financial obligation to the federal and state governments in the coming year. All contributions to the Third District's Charitable Trust, which is a 501 (c) (3) fund, are fully tax deductible on both federal and state returns as permitted by law. The Charitable Trust provides assistance to our fraternal brothers and sisters in time of need. The need could be as simple as helping with the very high cost of prescription drugs or it could be a little help getting back on your feet from a devastating loss. You may only need assistance for a few months or sometimes a little longer. It is comforting to know that the Charitable Trust is available to assist. The Charitable Trust needs your continued support especially in these economic hard times. If you can, would you please make a contribution to the trust. Again, this month in April, we don't forget about paying our taxes. Preparing taxes requires assessing your financial status both in the immediate short term and longer. As you think about your financial status, think about a legacy gift in your will for the Charitable Trust. A legacy gift provides future support for the Charitable Trust. You might want to start the conversation now with your financial planner. Thank you for keeping the Charitable Trust in your thoughts and heart.

Its existence parallels the origins of the Sons of Norway whose purposes and goals were to protect members of Sons of Norway and their families from the financial hardships experienced during times of sickness or death in the family. As reported in the Spring 1971 Sons of Norway Bulletin [1], a motion made at the 1936 District Convention to start an old age fund became a reality in 1938. Over time, the old age fund became known as the Benevolent Fund.

New York, and Brooklyn in particular, was the destination for many Norwegian immigrants. Our Norwegian brethren came with little but the clothes on the back, hearts filled with hope and strong backs ready to work. The newly arrived Norwegians, learning of the Sons of Norway, were drawn to the familiar sounds, tastes and companionship in the Third District lodges. It became apparent that some of the new immigrants needed help over the rough spots and the Benevolent Fund was the mechanism.

Eventually the Benevolent Fund was formalized in 1971 as the Charitable Trust. For over 40 years, the Charitable Trust has provided modest support to District 3 members with subsistence support critical to their physical, social and psychological well-being.

The fraternal chain, a symbol of everlasting friendship, is exemplified by the work of the Charitable Trust which provides assistance to our fraternal brothers and sisters in time of need. The need could be as simple as helping with the very high cost of prescription drugs or it could be help getting back on your feet from a devastating loss. A member may need assistance only for a few months or a little longer. It is comforting to know that the Charitable Trust has assisted members for over 40 years.

To qualify, a recipient must be a District 3 SON member at least five years, be recommended for a helping hand by a member and complete the application. These criteria are then reviewed by the Trustees which include the District President, Vice President, Counselor, Secretary and Treasurer. The selection process and results are confidential.

The Counselor manages the day-to-day business of administering the Charitable Trust and communicates monthly with the beneficiaries who continuously express their gratitude and heartfelt appreciation. The Charitable Trust – *taking care of our own for over 40 years!*

[1] Sons of Norway Bulletin Spring 1971 Vol. 1 No. 4 was provided by Ed Trabulsy, who served many Board positions including 3D President and International Director.

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3D Counselor

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MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR
UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS

April 12, 7:00pm **Social Outing:** Nordic Fiddle Concert at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Lynchburg
Cost: The suggested donation - $10/adult and $5/child; there will be a basket at the door.
Point of contact: Sharon Rohrback

April 23, 10:30am – 12:30pm Book signing with Timothy Boyce Editor of ***<u>From Day to Day: One Man's Diary of Survival in Nazi Concentration Camps</u>*** (Odd Nansen's private diary translated into English)
Location: Salem Museum801 East Main Street, Salem, VA.
(Phone number 389-6760)

April 29, 9am-12 pm **Home School Event Day (**In lieu of April meeting**)**
Location: D Day Memorial in Bedford
Program: Presenting Norway's role in the war during WWII – The 99th Battalion
Chairpersons: Robin Lambert and Helene DeVries

May 7, 8am-2pm **Annual Yard Sale fund raiser at the home of Cheri Johnson.**
Chairperson: Cheri Johnson
Rain date: May 14

May 21, 9am-5pm **<u>Local Colors</u> (**In lieu of May meeting**)**
Location: Center in the Square/Roanoke.
Chairpersons: Sharon Rohrback and Cheri Johnson

June 25, 1-3 pm **SON Meeting**
Location: College Lutheran Church
Program: Recap of the District 3 Convention
Workshop: Baking various Nordic cookies and pastries
Chairpersons: Kathy Clark and Joann Barfield

July 23, 1-3 pm **Blåfjell Lodge picnic.** (in lieu of July meeting)
Location: The home of Georgia Carr
Chairpersons: Georgia Carr and Joann Barfield

August 27, 8am-2pm **Annual Yard Sale fund raiser at the home of Cheri Johnson.**
Chairperson: Cheri Johnson

September 24, 1-3pm **SON Meeting**
Location: College Lutheran Church
Program: Nordic Auction/sell baked goods.
Chairpersons: Cheri Johnson and Joann Barfield
Refreshments: TBA

October 10 **Adopt-a-School**
Presentation: Leif Erikson by Cheri Johnson
Location: Faith Christian School

October 22, 1-4 pm: **Blåfjell 20th Anniversary Dinner**
Location: TBD
Program: TBD
Chairpersons: Cheri Johnson, Kathy Clark and Joann Barfield

November 18 **Adopt-a-School**
Presentation: Viking Day
Location: Faith Christian School

November 19, 1-3 pm **SON Meeting**
Location: College Lutheran Church
Program: Ornament and cookie exchange & 7 Kinds of Cookies by Cheri Johnson
Chairpersons: Joann Barfield

December 3: 1-3 pm **Yulefest Annual Dinner and St. Lucia procession** (Date to be confirmed)
Location: College Lutheran Church
Chairpersons: Kathy Clark and Sharon Rohrback

MARK YOUR 2016 CALENDARS NOW

THIRD DISTRICT/INTERNATIONAL NEWS:

For President's letter, see the Third District Events Calendar: www.3dsofn.org/newsletter/index.html

District 3 events: www.3dsofn.org/eventscalendar

Land of Viking (LOV) camp and conference center in Pennsylvania: www.3dsofn.org/lov or www.Landofthevikings.org

New Sons of Norway E-Post: sonsofnorway@sofn.com

Royal Norwegian Embassy in Washington: emb.washington@mfa.no

Nordic News from the Icelandic Embassy: http://www.iceland.is/us

NEWEST NEWS: New newspaper ... Welcome to Norway Today: www.norwaytoday.info

FULL LISTING OF EVENTS around the U.S: wwwnorway.org/calendar

SONS OF NORWAY MEET ON THE FOURTH SATURDAY OF EACH MONTH!

PLAN TO ATTEND EACH AND EVERY LODGE MEETING AND ACTIVITY!

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For the Love of Norway!!